WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 10 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | FEBRUARY 2002

Through the Looking-Glass of Justice & Equality

The Rich Get Richer And The Poor Get Prison

Pat Tassoni

Poverty is a form of violence. It is an oppression against the human spirit. It is an injustice against the innate worth of every human spirit. It is a result of inequality rather than a proof of inequality... The existence of poverty in the United States should not be accepted as a necessary evil or an insoluble problem, but should be considered a crisis requiring emergency measures. It is a matter of will and priorities, not a matter of resources.

-- Martin Luther King, Jr

The Olympia City Council wants it both ways. On the one hand they want to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights work he did on racism AND at the same time pursue modern-day segregation laws for the downtown against the poor. At the time of MLK's assassination, he was putting together A Poor People's Campaign which worked towards making it reality for America that everyone's basic needs were met, including shelter, clothes, food, education and a living-wage. But the City Council doesn't value those civil rights goals. Instead, in collaboration with the police department and some downtown businesses, they are pursuing other policies, the goals of which are to segregate the poor and homeless from downtown by criminalizing their poverty. Their ordinances include a ban on car camping, a ban on camping, a trespassing ordinance that would allow the police or park personnel to bar individuals from entry to public parks, a no panhandling zone and a no sale of fortified wine zone.

But, why? Let's see who is behind these ordinances. Right now only special interests (businesses and the police) have got these ordinances on the fast track for the summer of 2002. The efficiency of the system when no public representation has been taken or sought after is staggering. Benito Mussolini in defining Fascism said that the role of government is to do what business and the corporation demand. His form of government was to eliminate democratic representation in policies and turn the control of the economy over to business leaders. Sound familiar?

Creeping Fascism

The council has decided to host a Community Conversation on the issue and has framed it, with the police's help, as a discussion on downtown "SAFETY." Downtown is safe! Just ask those that frequent it and by their own reports, the police admit that downtown's crime has not increased. So why this discussion about safety? Imagine you were part of an agency that was asked to come up with solutions to a 'problem', wouldn't you figure out a way to increase the power and budget of your agency? That is what the police have done -- they've gone through the looking glass and come out with the plan that serves them: our officers don't have enough to do downtown because people aren't committing enough crime there, so we need new laws and new crimes to keep us busy and the jails fuller rather than cutting back the agency. Problem=solution. Just imagine what would happen if service providers were charged with the task of coming up with solutions to poverty.

The biggest factor in the commercial decline of downtown Olympia was when city officials in their grand wisdom *and greed* enacted a policy of SPRAWL and allowed the Capital Mall to go in in the late 70s/early 80s. There used to be department stores downtown, but the city made it easy for them to vacate the area and relocate to strip malls and one-stop shopping centers in surrounding areas. Like a sleight of hand trick, the council is blaming and penalizing the poor for the economy with one hand, while

(Continued page 11)

Listeners, students, TESC staff, volunteers... Debate KAOS-FM's future

Tristan Baurick

As a January 23 forum to discuss the future direction of Evergreen's listener-supported KAOS radio station began, it was apparent two perspectives were about to collide.

A handful of KAOS volunteers and employees took position at one end of a meeting room in the College Activities Building. They sat rigid, seeming to expect the worst.

KAOS management and Student Activities Director Thomas Mercado has taken heat in the last year for what some listeners say is an unwillingness to listen to the community's input and for growing away from the station's progressive roots.

Facing them, at the other end of the long line of tables, stood a throng of KAOS Listeners for *Democracy Now!* (KL*DN!*), a local organization founded last year in response to former KAOS General Manager Jack Kemp's decision to pull *Democracy Now!* from the station's line up.

Few KL*DN!* members took seats, opting to stand ready. One KL*DN!* member trained a Thurston County Community Television camera on KAOS' management team.

In the middle of the two factions sat a smattering of Evergreen students, alumni, KAOS volunteer programmers and many regular KAOS listeners, representing the gray area between the black and white of KAOS vs KL*DN!* In all, over sixty turned out for the Wednesday night event.

On top of everybody's discussion list was the hiring of a new General Manager. KAOS's top management position was vacated last November when Jack Kemp abruptly resigned after only four months on the job.

When the forum's facilitator announced that everyone would break up into small groups to discuss this and other issues, KL*DN!* members vehemently demanded the forum remain intact, allowing direct questioning of Mercado and other KAOS staff .

The meeting facilitator stood firm, and about seven small groups took shape.

"We want some inclusion from the larger community in the hiring process," said Rick Fellows, a KL*DN!* member, in a discussion with Katie Oppenheimer, a KAOS Music Director and Evergreen student. "We want to help set the criterion for who is hired," he said, adding that the present hiring system produced Kemp, a General Manager Fellows feels was not in-tune with the Olympia community.

Oppenheimer told Fellows she supports the hiring requirements, including the stipulation that applicants must have five years of professional radio experience.

"We need these criteria to make sure we have someone who's qualified," she said, adding that the General Manager position requires diverse skills, including the ability to oversee the station's budget.

"I still think the criteria is a little scary," Fellows said. "It's hard to find someone with five years experience that's coming from an alternative or community radio background."

Fellows told Oppenheimer he was also concerned about "forces at work" in KAOS and Evergreen's administration attempting to undermine KAOS's core values and progressive shows like *Democracy Now!*

"...there are others who are trying to conceal and control the controversial stuff on KAOS," he said, especially since KAOS's new tower allows the station to broadcast in more conservative areas, such as rural Mason and Lewis Counties.

"No one is trying to silence the community's voice." Oppenheimer said emphatically. "There are no forces [at KAOS] working against them!"

Oppenheimer reassured Fellows that she and many other KAOS volunteers are regular listeners of *Democracy Now!* and that she has never heard of anyone at KAOS attempting to cut shows for political reasons.

"It was a technical problem," Oppenheimer said of the decision to pull *Democracy Now!,* a show transmitted via the internet to KAOS.

At the end of their discussion, Oppenheimer and Fellows agreed they'd like to see a 'Friends of KAOS' organization take shape to focus on improving communication between KAOS and the community.

"I think the 'Friends of KAOS' idea is fabulous!" Oppenheimer said.

After a half hour of small group discussion, the forum rejoined to present ideas and concerns.

Many groups expressed their desire for more local news on KAOS and for the hiring of a student news director. Mercado said the position

(Continued page 4)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

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Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Feb. 22nd

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Feb. 25th
6:30pm at Olympia Downtown Library

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Announcements

Mental health event

You are invited to participate in Psychiatric Human Rights Day, Feb. 7, at the Capitol Campus.

This is your opportunity to talk directly to the people who are making mental health policy in our government and the general public visiting the Capitol Building during our event. Legislators from eleven committees who make the policy decisions affecting our lives are expected to be on hand. It will be your chance to talk legislators one-on-one.

Mental health advocates and activists will host tables on the ground floor near the Legislative Building's south entrance. Come and join us for an insightful view of the many psychiatric human rights violations in Washington's mental health system.

So join us Feb. 7 between 9 AM to 4 PM at the Legislative Building (the building with the dome).

The event is sponsored by Holistic Health and Advocacy. Invited advocacy groups include the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, Consumer Systems Advocates, Tardive Dyskinesia/Tardive Dystonia National Association, Mental Health Action, New Century Consumer Coalition, Silver Lining Consultant, Advocates for Educating Consumers, Express Theatre Northwest.

Contact Carole Willey at (360) 352-5361 (voice mail) for more information.

Peace art show

The Visions of Peace contemporary art and writing exhibition continues its run until February 12 at Le Voyeur Cafe and Lounge, 404 East 4th Avenue, Olympia. Featured artists include Tantra Bensko, Blake Flynn, David Sederberg, Shawn Murphy, Lisa Cyr, and Ken Gregory. A portion of art sales will be donated to the purchaser's choice of local non-profits, including the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, Works In Progress, Olympia Community Sustaining Fund, and Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Leonard Peltier rally

Join Peltier activists at the International Day of Solidarity With Leonard Peltier.

March & Rally For Justice on Saturday, February 9, 2002 at noon.

The event will begin at Tacoma's Portland Avenue Park (On Portland Ave., between E. 34th and E. Fairbanks Ave. Take Portland Ave. exit off I-5 and head east). Speakers will include Harold Belmont, Matilaja, Juan Jose Bocanegra, Steve Hapy Jr, and Arthur J. Miller.

This event is co-sponsored by The Northwest American Indian Movement, The Native People's Alliance, and The Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group.

See page 10 for more information.

Houses that love you back

See an earth building slide presentation with Elke Cole, a professional natural builder and designer from Vancouver, B.C., on Wdnesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. The event will be held at Old Madison Elementary, 8th and Central.

The beauty of natural houses and the process of natural building are presented through inspiring images and an informative talk by Elka Cole. Elka has been building and designing cobb and strawbale buildings for six years, and shares her experience with passion.

"Natural building has opened the building process to me in a hands-on way. I Love building with cob, sculpting spaces, shaping windows, creating something different every time."--Elke Cole

This event is brought to the community by Terra Commons, in partnership with Northwest Ecobuilding Guild, Madison Coalition, Olympia Community FreeSkool, and Students at Evergreen for Ecological Design. Admission is a $5 suggested donation, but no one will be turned away.

For more information, call (360) 352-8526 or e-mail strawkan@onebox.com

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FEBRUARY 2002

If this were not a "material" world...

Instead of "consumption frenzy" as the "traditional economic cure"

The government could boost the economy by:

- fully taking care of services for people: schools, elder and childcare, universal health care, drug treatment and, in doing so, reduce the need for cops, jails and prisons,
- developing public transportation and, therefore, reduce air pollution, minimize our dependence on oil and save lives,
- and contributing to "beauty, sustainable livelihoods" and improving the "natural environment" and thereby raising the standard of living for all.

The public could use its economic power:

- to invest in companies that supply cleaner, longer-lasting, more efficient green-friendly products and services,
- and for things that bring spiritual enrichment such as learning a language or skill, taking yoga classes or helping someone in need.

Sources: *Yale Daily News* **(Maria Ivanova) 1.18.02;** *Common Dreams* **(Tom Turnipseed)1.5.02**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Airplanes may be grounded because we would rather be at home than jet-setting across the globe. Store shelves might be stocked because we realize we have enough. Restaurants could be empty because we prefer to dine around the family table and movies may go unseen because we would rather talk with a friend." Maria Ivanova					**1** **2001**: Ashcroft confirmed by Senate; 8 Democrats crossed over **2001**: California sells $10 billion in bonds; $300 for every person	**2** **2001**: WA state agrees to pay $75,000 to seven sex offenders kept without treatment at the Special Commitment Center
3 **1904**: Colombian troops clash with U S Marines in Panama **1980**: The press reveals the Abscam investigation	**4** **1909**: California law segregates Japanese schoolchildren **1998**: WA state House passes referendum banning same sex marriage	**5** **1917**: US Immigration Act passed; literacy tests now required and Asian laborers are excluded except for Japanese	**6** **2001**: Fed. order requiring electricity sales to CA expires **2001**: Olympia City Council approves the LOTT-Miller contract	**7** **1999**: King Hussein of Jordan dies **2001**: Washington state senate passes bill for emergency financial heating aid for the poor	**8** **2001**: Tumwater approves the LOTT-Miller contract **2001**: Fed. judge orders 3 major suppliers to sell electricity to California	**9** **2001**: Seattle City Attorney's Office announces it will drop charges against 77 WTO protesters; 23 will go forward
10 **1936**: Gestapo given control of concentration camps **1999**: Federal judge orders American Airlines pilot to end sick-out	**11** **1937**: GM sit-down strike ends **1999**: Locked out Kaiser Aluminum workers rally on the Capitol steps	**12** **2001**: Olympia closes illegal homeless shelter behind Bread & Roses **2001**: 60% of WA commercial shellfish beds show contamination	**13** **2001**: Fourth Avenue Bridge Project may be delayed an additional seven months for the environmental impact statement	**14** **1997**: Fed appeals court upholds military ban on homosexuality **2001**: State-wide study reveals 30+ are killed annually by loved ones	**15** **2001**: AT&T announces lay off of 450 state wide **2001**: Protesters of drilling Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge picket Harrison Exxon station	**16** **2001**: Bush Jr. bombs Iraq for first time **2001**: Court rules Corps of Engineer's Snake River dams violate Clean Water Act
17 **1996**: Rally held in Brinnon in Jefferson County protesting sale and logging of 55 acres in Dosewallips River drainage area	**18** **1903**: Illinois legislator David Underwood tries to bar football **2001**: 1,000s march in Baghdad protesting US/ British airstrikes	**19** **2001**: So. Korea: Thousands of police break down the front gate and end a four-day sit-in protest by 600 newly laid-off workers	**20** **1869**: TN declares martial law in KKK crisis **2001**: Student collect $63,000 for free speech violations by North Thurston School Dist.	**21** **2001**: Coke and Proctor & Gamble become one **2001**: Rally outside of Lumberman's protests the sale of old-growth timber	**22** **1868**: T. Stevens drafts resolution for impeachment of Pres. Johnson **2001**: BPA announces it largest purchase wind power	**23** **1995**: WA state capital steps: 6,000 blue-collar workers protest the WA Senate's "attempts to roll back the prevailing wage"
24 **1995**: US Fish and Wildlife Service proposes protection of Western snowy plover nesting sites along 10% of the West Coast	**25** **1964**: Cassius Clay wins World heavyweight Championship **2001**: C. Powell urges Israel to lift economic "siege" on Palestine	**26** **1998**: About a dozen Pacific Northwest salmon stocks are proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act	**27** **2001**: WA jobless rate jumps from 4.6 to 5.2% **2001**: Rainier City Council reject Verizon wireless proposal to build a cellular tower	**28** **1933**: Germany issues a decree suppressing civil liberties **2001**: Earthquake hits the Nisqually Delta; 4th Ave Bridge is a goner	**"The corporate/political propaganda... hype for consumers to defeat the terrorists by spending our way out of the recession could become an illusion buried under a mountain of debt and economic collapse."** – T. Turnipseed	

Ask the Sex Worker

Real answers to life's 'lil questions from a slut's perspective.....

by Lady Anon

Question: I am looking for a fun, no stress, no obligations roll in the hay. I am not, however, wanting to participate in prostitution, as I feel it commodifies sex.

Answer: *Usually it's the men in our society who have the luxury (safety, cultural acceptance, no sexual stigmatization, such as the concept of sluttiness truly applied to females only) to play this "no obligations roll in the hay" type thing.*

What is the difference between sex work and a roll in the hay? The women on the receiving end gets straw in all the wrong places in the latter proposition, the sex worker, however, gets to buy a deluxe lint remover. No one wants to hear about the "commodification" of sexuality, but, it already is sonny boy. Repression of sexuality is a major undercurrent of our society, at the same time, glorification of it occurs in near icon-like dimensions.

Healthy sexuality can be played out with a sex worker. Granted, a lot of times unhealthy sex is magnified, people come from bad places in their pasts, etc. But, in general, commodification of sex through prostitution is more of a conceptual justification to trash the occupation as far as I am concerned. There is always some kind of payback involved in relationships, concrete payback for a good time helps pay the bills, feed the kids and lets us go on with life. Commodify that... If we look at this through leftist lenses, yes, it's a job but one that the worker controls, not the boss. In this job, the owner of the means of production is the worker.

Question: Are women looking for anything in particular in a man who posts personals on-line? Uh, does size matter much for a onetime thing?

Answer: *I mean, unless you are offering something grand - whether it be a fun time or $$, or you just sound too great to be true (looks great in black leather, is an organic gardener or some such oxymoronic description) usually a woman would just stay home with a good book and a vibrator, if she is even horny.*

I mainly want to know you are interested in me, as a person, sexual and otherwise. Be willing to be a sexy friend who is good in bed and looks edible and wants to pamper me from all the stress of my life...i.e. cook me a special meal that yo mama taught you, or get MY fav video for us to watch, whatever, but do find out my interests and barriers to a good time and go for them, even if they are more concrete and less sexy.... (Offer to pay for my childcare on our date if you find out I have a kid) even for a causal encounter.

Yes, Size matters under 5 inches. But Brains matter more, especially if they are under 5 lbs.

Email your questions on any subject to:

askareallady @hotmail.com

(KAOS, continued)

director. Mercado said the position is open but no students applied this school year.

Other comments included the desire for KAOS to rerun *Democracy Now!* and other news shows during dead-air time late at night.

For the most part, the larger discussion revolved around the community's desire to have a more consistant and vital say in the station's future.

Some expressed reservations about the KL*DN!*'s demands.

"I'm afraid certain factions in the community are trying to micro-manage the station," said John Ford, a longtime KAOS show host.

"Who is the community?," Oppenheimer asked. "Is it the loudest group that shows up to public meetings?"

Tom McCullough, a KAOS music director and Evergreen student said KAOS should focus less on the community and more on involving Evergreen students.

"We need greater student involvement and opportunities since students provide a high percentage of financial support through tuition," McCullough said.

According to Mercado, KAOS draws nearly seventy percent of its money from Evergreen students, with about fifteen percent generated from grants and another fifteen percent from the community through pledge drives.

Mercado's announcement that he would include a community representative on the General Manager search committee was met by a round of applause from the audience.

But some at the forum felt this is not enough.

"Why does [Mercado] select all the members of the [search] committee?," asked KL*DN!* member David Lavender. "Why can't the students select a student representative and the community select a community representative...?,"

A strong round of applause showed many backed Lavender's position.

Mercado said after the forum that he will handpick a search committee which will include two Evergreen staff, three students, one faculty member, and one or two community members that are not affiliated with the college.

"[Lavender's idea] sounds good," Mercado said later, "...but it would take a lot of time."

Mercado said allowing search committee members to elect representatives may be used in future hirings, but that KAOS needs a General Manager as soon as possible.

Mercado also said he does not want to let go of too much control of the hiring process.

"I'm accountable for who ever is hired. I need to explain my rationale for my decision [to hire someone]. I need to make sure I look at the bigger picture," Mercado said. "It's not fair to the students to hire someone who has to learn on the job. [The General Manager] needs to be able to teach students [and] be able to manage a complex budget."

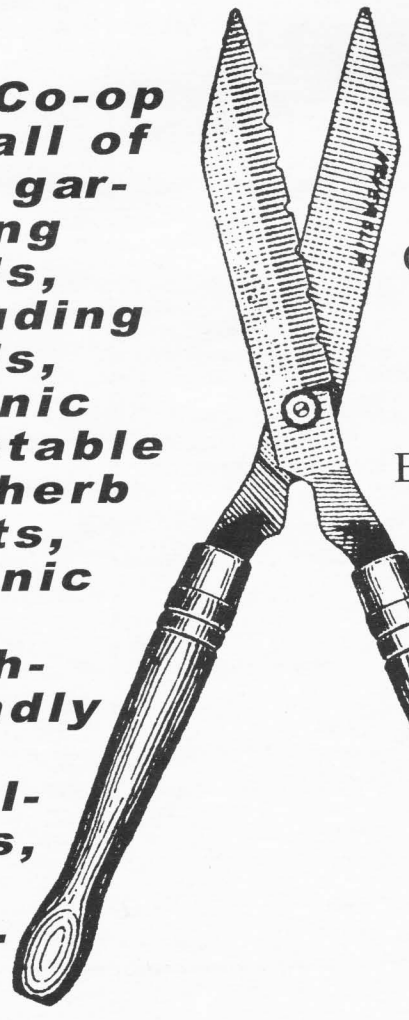
As for when KAOS will have a new General Manager, Mercado said after he submits a job description to Evergreen's Human Resources Department, a job announcement will soon follow . Human Resources will then weed out candidates that don't meet the basic requirement of five years experience.

Mercado expects the search committee will begin reviewing the Human Resources-approved applications by March 5. Mercado and the committee will select three to four candidates from this pool and invite them to campus for interviews in April. By the end of this school year, Mercado said, KAOS will have a new eneral Manager..

For a KAOS Listeners for *Democracy Now!* perspective on the KAOS forum, turn to page 8.

Olympia Food Co-op

The Olympia Food Co-op



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UP FRONT

Sundown & Dr. King

Jerome Johnson

I was cleaning the gutters at my house the other day when Sundown showed up to visit. As usual he wore old overalls, a beat-up old felt hat and his sardonic, crooked grin.

"I read your article last month, about airports," he said.

"Pretty good. You know, they've got that all-baggage screening going now."

Well, I hear that's for our own good, and delays haven't been so bad.

"Huh. Looks like one of those 'feel-good' measures you wrote about. I heard on the radio that they can't screen ALL bags because they don't have the machines yet. And the machines cost half a million dollars a copy. Look at all the airports in the country and tell me who's going to pay for all them machines. Besides, a suicidal terrorist ain't gonna care about his bag - even if they hit another airplane, which I doubt."

Oh? Why?

He looked at me like I was an idiot. "Hell, man. You don't attack where they're looking for you."

He picked up my rake and began raking leaves and I climbed down to move the ladder. As I went I asked him how he was going to celebrate MLK Day.

"Same way I always do," he answered. "It's a day on. I'll do something good. But you know, for me and you and a lot of folks, in spirit EVERY day is MLK Day. We don't wait for one day to remember him, to celebrate his accomplishments, or continue his work. We do it ALL the time. Like the rally we had on New Year's, for instance. I dug that one, man." He shook his head. "Forty-two years later, and still so much to handle."

But things are better now.

"Oh, yes and no," he allowed. "Look at Ashcroft and what's he's doing. I saw him on CNN the other day, singing Dr. King's praises. How very PC and 'patriotic.' Hypocrite - when King was alive, people like Ashcroft were vilifying him. Calling Dr. King a 'traitor,' 'a threat to national security,' and a 'Communist agitator.' I remember. It made me so sick I had to change the channel, and I'm a strong man."

I guess he wanted to do his part to honor Dr. King.

"'Honor Dr. King?!'" He took off his hat, mopped his brow and put the hat back on, guffawing. "Oh, I dig your sense of irony, homeboy. I do indeed. If he really wanted to honor Dr. King, he wouldn't've rounded up everyone who looks like an Arab - more than a thousand people - and locked them up in Federal jails indefinitely and without due process."

Mr. Ashcroft and the administration say that only citizens are entitled to such process.

"Wrong. I checked. The Fifth Amendment says that 'NO PERSON'--NOT 'any noncitizen'--can be deprived of due process. If he really wanted to honor Dr. King, Ashcroft wouldn't've pushed through that damned Patriot Act law. I mean, it's BAD - among other things, they can actually listen in on lawyer/client conversation without your knowledge or consent, and THEN use that 'evidence' against you. There's no way Dr. King would have supported such a law."

They say this is wartime.

"It was wartime when Dr. King was alive, too. First Korea, during the bus boycott, and later Vietnam.

"And that's another thing." He dumped leaves into the bucket. "Is he 'honoring Dr. King' when he transports scores of Afghans from their country and locks them up in a concentration camp in a foreign country--again with no due process?"

The Government says these are extremely dangerous terrorists.

"I don't buy it," Sundown growled. "Check it out. They ain't even calling the Afghans prisoners of war. Callin' 'em 'battlefield detainees' instead, so the Government doesn't have to treat them as well as POWs--even though they keep insisting we're at war. More hypocrisy! Got 'em locked up in chain-link fence cages, open air, no ceiling. Open to the elements, no privacy, no power in the cells."

The military says the Afghans are receiving tough but fair treatment, better than they would've treated US prisoners.

"Hah!" Sundown snorted while I moved the ladder again. "It's tough, all right. I think they're getting a level of 'revenge' on those Afghans. I think the attitude of the Marines guarding them is: 'Shut up. We don't give a damn how miserable you are--you're not as miserable as the civilians you helped murder on Sept. 11. We don't care about the Red Cross, Amnesty International or any other world opinion, because we're the U.S., the only superpower, and we can do whatever we damned well want and the rest of the world will just have to suck it up and deal with it. THEY weren't attacked, we were.' You know that's the attitude most Americans have. I think I'd rather be in a Mississippi jail--yeah, you heard what I said. I sure am glad those international groups are checking things out. Can't wait for their report."

"Is [Ashcroft] 'honoring Dr. King' when he transports scores of Afghans from their country and locks them up in a concentration camp in a foreign country...with no due process?"

I climbed down from the gutters and took off my gloves. "It sure is interesting. And there's three years of Dubya left to go."

"Maybe." He grinned. "We'll see how this Enron thing works out."

In Luanda, President dos Santos (Angola) and President Kagame (Rwanda) discuss inter-Africa issues.

In Sierra Leone, the guns begin to fall silent at last.

In Cambodia, campaigning for local offices in the Phnom Penh has begun peacefully.

In Illinois, Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. is suing a challenger - named Jesse V. Jackson.

And in Lacey, Billie Willis-Elliott, President of BIG Olympia, hosts a very nice dinner to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

M.L.K. ON PEACE

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

-Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?, 1967.

"Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time: the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

-Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, 1964.

"Man was born into barbarism when killing his fellow man was a normal condition of existence. He became endowed with a conscience. And he has now reached the day when violence toward another human being must become as abhorrent as eating another's flesh."

-Why We Can't Wait, 1963.

"I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land

-Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, 1964.

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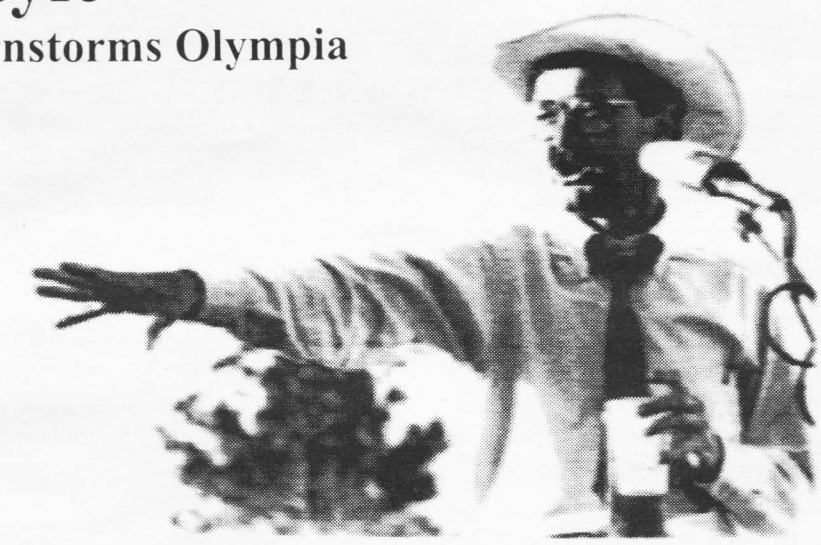
Progressive populism, Texas-style

Jim Hightower barnstorms Olympia

David Zink



Jim Hightower brought his down-home Populism, Texas-style to Olympia's Capital Theater Friday night, December 7th, where he emphasized a theme of unity and coalition-building.

Citizens Band opened the program with a few rabble-rousing songs including one celebrating the successful struggle of the residents of Olympia's Candlewood Manor mobile home park, against Wal-Mart Corporation, which wanted the property for another one of their mega-stores. Many of the residents of Candlewood are elderly and low-income, and can't easily pack up and move elsewhere. Seventy percent of the employees of Wal-Mart, the speaker noted later, are paid so miserably that they qualify for public assistance.

The program was presented by the Washington State chapter of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

Hightower thanked PEER for working to make "Power to the People" more than just a slogan.

Hightower takes pride in his reputation as an agitator. Although the corporate media snidely uses the term "agitators" to denigrate people working to straighten this country out, "The agitator is that part of a washing machine that gets the dirt out. Truth is, we need agitators today more than ever."

In the wake of the tragedies of September 11th, the powers-that-be are wrapping themselves in the flag, posing as patriots, and brazenly seizing the opportunity to ram through tax cuts for a handful of corporations, open up the sensitive Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, and concocting other schemes to enrich themselves. Tax refunds for the wealthy, while working people are given no meaningful tax relief.

Some politicians, under the influence of military-industrial corporate lobbyists, have gone so far as calling it treason to be against corporate welfare programs like Cheney & Bush's Strategic Missile Defense System. Hightower pointed out the absurdity of thinking that "Star Wars" can possibly defend us against box-cutter-wielding hijackers.

Hightower says that corporate and congressional greed-heads wrapping themselves in the flag is like putting earrings on a hog. It might fool some people for a while, but it's not difficult to see through the facade.

The operable ethic in this country used to be "For the Common Good". Today, through corporate influence over the media, that ethic has been replaced by "I got mine, who needs you?!"

The corporate media's been talking about the "good times" we're having in this country. President Clinton used to boast about all the jobs that he helped create to try to compensate for all the jobs lost through the Free Trade Agreements. Hightower suggests that we "Ask the waitress in the restaurant, she'll tell you all about these minimum-wage jobs – quite likely, she's putting in 60 hours a week working two or three of those jobs, trying to make ends meet."

Indeed, fantastic wealth is being created in this country. The wealthy are getting most of it; while the rest of us have our medical benefits cut back, get laid off, or get screwed in other ways. In actual buying power, eighty percent of Americans are making the same or less than they were 20 years ago.

Michael Eisner, CEO of Disney Corp, which bought out the American Broadcasting Company (ABC), makes $287 thousand dollars per hour, while cutting back on the benefits of his workers that are out there working the crowds in their Mickey and Goofy costumes, or in a Haitian sweatshop assembling Disneyland souvenirs.

We are witnessing a devolution of American society into an economically polarized society. Reflecting on how wealth is becoming increasingly concentrated into the hands of a few "haves" that live behind the walls of gated communities with their own security police, and the growing misery of the majority, Hightower says that "Money is like manure. When you leave too much in one pile, it starts to stink. You need to spread it around for it to do any good."

> ***"The agitator is that part of a washing machine that gets the dirt out. Truth is, we need agitators today more than ever."***

The response of the corporate-financed politicians' is to pass laws (under the tutelage of lobbyists) that further enrich their sponsors. Economists have a technical term for what Wall Street is doing to us. It's called "stealing". And it's not just the "bean-sprout" eaters that are aware of this. Hightower says that the "snuff-dippers" are starting to wake up too.

Jim's Aunt Beulah used to tell him that "If you want to clean up the water, you've got to get the hogs out of the creek". In this case, the hogs are multinational corporations that are not only fouling our air and water; but also fouling our electoral process and democratic way of life.

The important thing to remember about hogs is that they don't respond to polite language. Asking them to "please get out of the water" just doesn't work. The only way you can get them out of the creek is by getting people to work together to push and pull them out of there. That's hard work, but it's the only thing that works.

Hightower pointed to the state of Maine as an example of what can be done by limiting corporate donations to political campaigns. Since passing legislation authorizing the public financing of election campaigns - and the limitation of corporate funding - the people of Maine have elected over one-third of its legislators with clean money, who then went on to pass such progressive legislation as a universal, single-payer health care system. That's one example of "getting the hogs out of the creek."

There are plenty of hard-working, progressive grassroots groups scattered across America working to restore citizen power against corporate domination. We don't need to start any new ones at this point. Hightower spoke of the need to build coalitions of existing groups and bring these people together. When groups work together, a synergy occurs that exceeds the effectiveness of these people working alone. We need to communicate across geographic, racial, and ideological boundaries. People need to start talking with people on the other side of town. We may not agree with everything. That's OK. Don't demand that coalition members agree on everything. Instead, let's build on common, economic issues, and not allow disagreement on other issues to act as wedge issues that split allies from each other, and render our efforts ineffective.

Hightower is planning a "Rolling Thunder Down-Home Democracy Tour", to bring activists together, promote coordination, and have some fun while we're at it, with music, beer, jugglers, and clowns for the kids. Loosen up a little, dance, and rub elbows while strategizing.

Hightower also spoke about the need to rally our nation for an all-out campaign to free us from dependency on Middle Eastern oil. Currently, we are spending $56 billion a year to buy imported oil, and another $25 billion to prop up a rogue's gallery of dictators and pampered monarchies who rule countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These "oilionaires" are the primary source of funding for terrorist networks like Osama bin Laden's.

If we want to stop the bin Ladens of the future, we need to cut off their financing. We do not need to sacrifice the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. What America needs to do is go on a crash program to break through the remaining barriers to solar, wind, hydrogen fuel cells and other sources of clean energy, and build mass transportation networks including high-speed rail. This is an approach that could excite and unify our people, including our best scientists, engineers, and planners, and create hundreds of thousands of good-paying union jobs. It would move this country toward a brighter future and would be attainable within a decade, spending no more than we do now to finance the oiligarchy on their corrupt, corporate-funded thrones.

In the Q & A period, somebody asked Hightower where Free Enterprise fits into his ideas for a better America. He said that the "Free" in "Free Enterprise" should be a verb, not an adjective – we need to free enterprise, which is now imprisoned within the corporate structure.

Because of its focus on short-term profit maximization, the very corporate structure promotes tunnel vision and social and environmental irresponsibility. If you or I, as small business people, pollute a stream, we have to either clean it up, or pay for it. When a wealthy corporation pollutes, they might pay a fine so small relative to their wealth that they don't even feel any pain. It becomes just another operating expense. Hardly a deterrent.

To truly "free" enterprise, we need to build worker-owned businesses and cooperatives. The CEOs and major stockholders of a multinational corporation may live, quite likely in gated communities, thousands of miles away from their properties. The owner-operators of cooperatives, on the other hand, tend to be anchored in the communities where their business operates.

With down-home, colorful language, Hightower frames progressive concepts in a way that makes these ideas accessible to everyday people.

For more info:

Jim Hightower's daily radio commentary airs on KAOS, 89.3 FM, every week day morning at 8:25 AM.

His books include *There's Nothing in the Middle of the Road but Yellow Stripes and Dead Armadillos*, and *If the Gods had Wanted Us to Vote, They would have Given Us Candidates.*

His web site is: www.jimhightower.com/

Jim Hightower has a regular column in *The Progressive Populist*, a bi-monthly publication. Subscriptions are $30 per year. Their mailing address is P.O. box 487, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588. Their web site is: www.populist.com

We should really learn from Enron

Urban Kohl

Can't someone just cut through all the crap about the economy?

The Enron case offers an example: A guy (Kenneth Lay) figures out during the Reagan years that with deregulation of banking, making money no longer requires doing something useful. In fact money can be "made" a lot faster by creating lots of new excuses for borrowing huge amounts. The borrowed money, especially under the newly relaxed rules, is apparently free -no risk to those who have figured out how to work it, and infinite amounts available to those who have the right connections.

Look around, lots of people are starting to talk about the flawed origins of our money. But not just sleazeballs like Lay are exploiting the flaw. It's become biznez as usual in America. From junk bonds to leveraged buy-outs to mega-mergers, the movers and shakers been havin' a blast! Name some of 'em?!: Neil Bush and the entire Bush clan, Mike Milkin, Kravitz Kohlberg & etc. What the hell did Ford corporation gain by buying Volvo, except an excuse to create huge debts - money stolen from the future, masquerading as investment. They manifest money right and left, flinging it at politicians who are impressed enough to treat them in a friendly way - like not scrutinizing their activities. Notice how many politicians Enron gave money to! Lawyers and accountants get in on the take, covering for the scammers and even shredding records, and firing a token fall guy here & there (oh, and faking a suicide could happen if necessary).

The money machine has gotten so pervasive that all the pundits, all the media - everyone in the public eye - seems to be busy justifying and explaining the corrupt and malignant reality as if it were just the way things necessarily are.

All the spin makes one dizzy. And it insults our intelligence. Will we really come to believe, even for a while (until the next meltdown), that Enron's corruption was an isolated case?

Get with it people!!

We are in the death-grip of a cancer on our economic body. The schemes of these moronic parasites who have the keys to our common treasury make a mockery out of the ordinary American's industriousness, thrift, dedication to quality and sincere purposefulness. The most successful businessmen in our culture today are engaged in predatory practices, designed to give nothing to the common good, but take as much as possible from the common heritage, the common resources. Lay is but the tip of the iceberg.

Wake up for godsakes! Find out what money really is and how it has been perverted and made into a weapon for conquering the world, for enslaving the many by the few who have wormed their way into the practice of money-creation. Dig in and discover what has been happening. Read everything you can find about the subject of money! Find out why it overrides everything, even life itself!

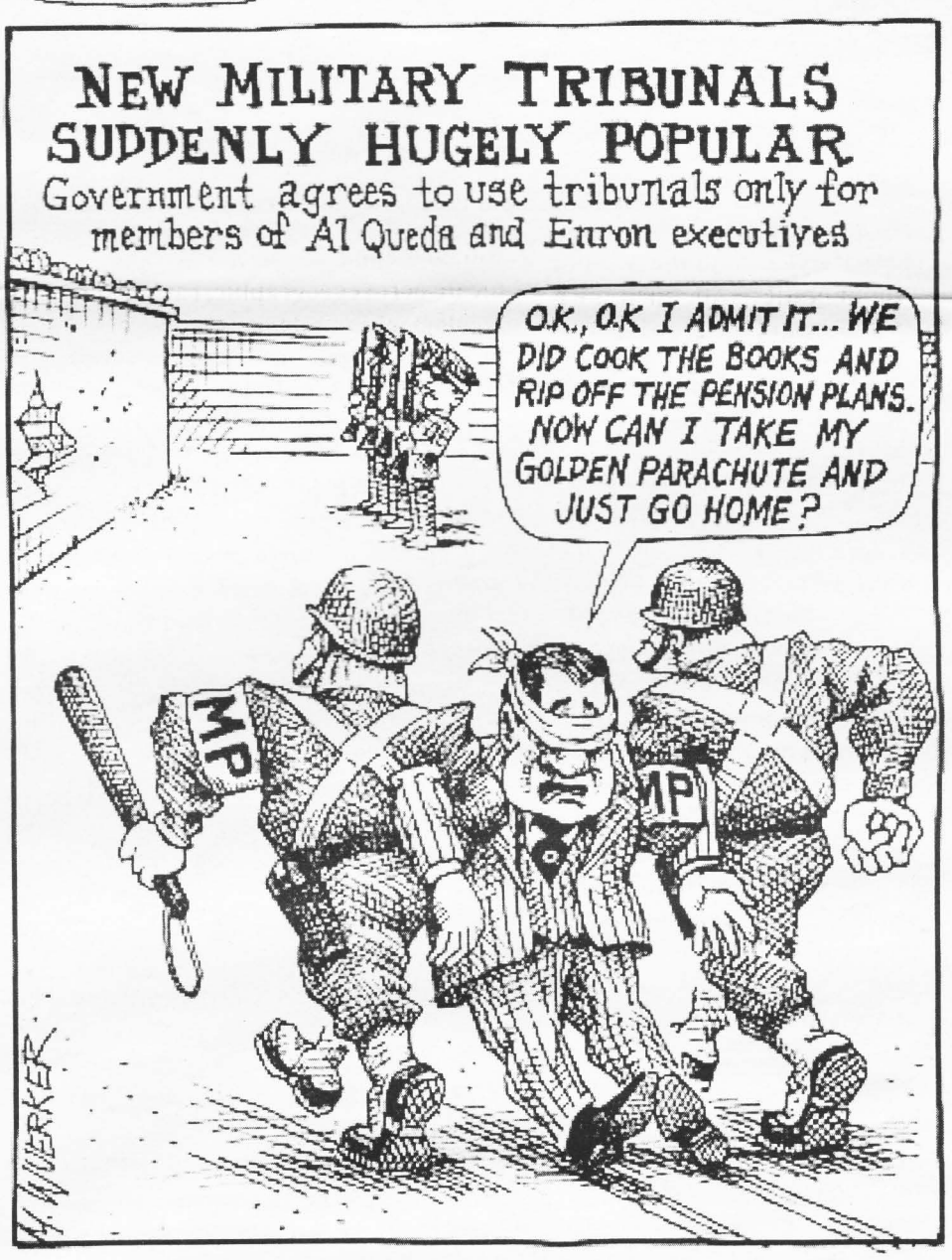
Nothing less than the viability of planet earth is at stake.

Read John McMurtry's writing for an incisive diagnosis. He puts it all together in an intense, dense and scholarly work titled *The Cancer Stage of Capitalism*. That's not just a metaphor. This cancer is so clever it has most of the world engaged in an ACCIDENTAL CONSPIRACY to mask it. All who base their lives on money - -and who doesn't-are complicit. We have "bought in" to a parallel universe - a version of reality that hides this deadly disease.

K.Lay

Don't be fooled by all the spin, all the efforts to mask the symptoms. Only once we have identified the disease can we start working on the cure.

LINT TRAP


NEW MILITARY TRIBUNALS SUDDENLY HUGELY POPULAR
Government agrees to use tribunals only for members of Al Queda and Enron executives
O.K., O.K I ADMIT IT... WE DID COOK THE BOOKS AND RIP OFF THE PENSION PLANS. NOW CAN I TAKE MY GOLDEN PARACHUTE AND JUST GO HOME?
MP
MP
M. WERKER

Pipe down about Darwin, the teacher's packing heat

Tristan Baurick

Wily, white-haired state Senator Harold Hochstetter is at it again. The Republican from Moses Lake, who failed last year in a bid for Governor, introduced two bills on January 18 that would ban the teaching of evolution in public schools AND allow teachers to carry guns in the classroom.

Senate Bill 6471 would permit "all school personnel to carry concealed firearms," while Senate Bill 6500 stipulates all "textbooks and curriculum shall teach the self-evident truth of creation."

At least Senator Hochstetter, a self-professed 'bible --banger', is realistic about his bills chances of becoming law in the 2002 session, telling National Public Radio that he knows the bills won't pass. Instead, Hochstetter said he hopes to create "more dialog" about these issues in Washington State government.

FAST TRACK: ROUND TWO

Michael MacSems

December 6th, 2001 will live in infamy for fair trade activists. It was on this day Republicans managed to eke out a one-vote victory (215 to 214) for Fast Track legislation. They achieved this through a combined effort of bullying, throwing money around, holding the vote longer than rules allow, and calls to rally around the President in a time of war.

To recap; Fast Track (or Presidential Trade Promotion Authority) is the legislative mechanism that allows the Executive Branch to negotiate trade deals and bring them back to Congress for a straight up and down vote, with no amendments and limited debate. It was Fast Track that allowed the Clinton Administration to push NAFTA and the WTO through Congress in 1993 and 1994. Fast Track expired at the end of 1994 and Clinton was unsuccessful in reauthorizing it. Now the Bush Administration is having Fast Track-induced visions of an expanded WTO and the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) dancing around in their heads.

Fast Track now moves to the Senate, which has been much less critical of over-arching trade deals. In December it seemed that Fast Track was pretty much a done deal, but another opening has developed.

Against the wishes of the business lobby, the Senate passed a slightly different Fast Track bill out of the Finance Committee. According to the Citizen's Trade Campaign (CTC), the House and Senate bills will now be negotiated into one compromise text and new text will be approved by a House majority. This is great news for us!

Seeing has how the Republicans basically had to sacrifice a member (from a textile-dependent district) to pull out the December victory, and seeing has how a number of House members on our side didn't vote due to medical emergencies, it seems likely that a second vote in the House has a good chance of failing. The longer the Senate version takes to come up for a vote, the closer we get to the 2002 elections. The conventional wisdom holds that free trade bills usually cost votes when held too close to election time.

The strategy to defeat Fast Track in a second house vote in late winter or spring is congressional reward and retribution. Fortunately, most of Western Washington did very well in the December 6th vote. Brain Baird, Adam Smith, Jim McDermott, Jay Inslee and Rick Larsen voted against Fast Track. The rotten apple among them was Norm Dicks. Since progressives will again be pressing our delegation to vote against Fast Track again (a difficult vote for some of them), CTC is hoping that citizens will take this time to thank, both privately and publicly, those members that voted against Fast Track. Our Congress members need to experience the rewards of doing the right thing, especially when we will be calling on them to do the right thing yet again.

KAOS listeners need a place at the table

Sandy Mayes

A member of KAOS Listeners for *Democracy Now!* discusses her group's struggle for more community input within Olympia's community radio station.

KAOS Listeners for Democracy Now! (KL*DN!*) is a group of KAOS listeners, supporters, students and programmers who came together when *Democracy Now!* went off the air in September. Even after *Democracy Now!* was reinstated, we have continued to address ourselves to KAOS-related issues.

What we value most about KAOS, what makes it so rare and treasured, is summarized in the portion of its mission statement which emphasizes "giving special attention to the interests of people historically ignored by the media." The current program schedule at KAOS reflects this mission very well with independent music, local programming, progressive public affairs and local call-in shows which offer unique opportunities for on-air community dialogue. What concerns us now is how vulnerable KAOS is to losing these features and qualities we so value.

On January 23, KAOS held what it had publicized as an "open forum." Most of the 60 or so attendees did not consider the format to be very "open" as there was very little time provided for open comment. Despite vociferous objections from the crowd, the facilitator hired by KAOS would not alter the format. Thus, according to plan, much of the time was spent in small group discussions and group reports with a very brief period at the end for individual open statements and questions.

One of the unfortunate consequences of this constricted format was the minimization of opportunities to record the event. TCTV was present and prepared to record open comments. But since much of the discussion occurred in small groups, a lot of it was lost. And because there was so little time available to pose questions to KAOS management, a rare opportunity to extract answers from KAOS on record was also lost.

Despite these limitations, the event did have some great benefits from the perspective of those of us in the KL*DN!*. We were fairly evenly distributed among the small groups. We found that we have some strong allies in the community.

We found near-total consensus for our central proposal: the insistence that there must be a collaborative process by which KAOS listeners can have a meaningful, measurable influence on major decisions affecting the future of KAOS. Because however nice it is that KAOS occasionally offers opportunities for the listening community to express itself, there is no official structural mechanism through which listener input actually counts in any meaningful way.

For months, KL*DN!* members have been attending the weekly Monday morning KAOS programming meetings. Since mid-September, there has been at least one, often several members of our group present at these meetings. These are the only regular KAOS meetings open to the public. But they are clearly not where the real issues are being discussed.

To illustrate this point, we refer to a KAOS presentation given to the TESC Board of Trustees at their quarterly meeting on Jan. 8. Exercising our right to access public documnts, we obtained an audiotape of this presentation and discussion. On this tape it becomes very apparent that for quite some time there have been ongoing discussions between trustees, college administrators and KAOS management about the idea of airing Evergreen sporting events on KAOS. This was a major topic of discussion at the trustees meeting. Yet, even though we have been engaged with KAOS management on nearly a weekly basis at programming meetings and elsewhere, we never heard a single word about the topic of sports on KAOS.

In today's political climate and with civil liberties under attack, a resource like a progressive, grassroots community radio station is an increasingly endangered and precious thing.

Listeners are simply not invited to participate in the real discussions about major decisions affecting the direction and future of KAOS. For this reason we propose the formation of a Listener Advisory Board: a seat at the table and a voice that counts. In the very near future, we will be hosting meetings offering all interested parties an opportunity to brainstorm as to how such a body might look and operate.

In the meantime, we will continue to follow and attempt to influence the search process for the new general manager at KAOS. At the KAOS forum, we asked Tom Mercado, Student Activities Director and Interim KAOS Manager, if he would respond to the proposal we submitted to him on November 30th regarding this search process. He did not respond to our suggestions regarding the job description and announcement. But he did address our suggestion that the person on the search/hiring committee designated to be the "community" representative actually be a listener from the community who is not affiliated with the college or the station. Mercado stated at the forum that he would agree to appoint one such person to sit on the committee. So far, none of the four KL*DN!* members who offered, months ago, to serve in this capacity has been invited to do so.

Ideally, this "community" representative would actually be selected by the community. As would the student representatives be selected by students, and the programmer selected by programmers. There was strong support for this concept at the forum. Mercado countered that the policy of appointment solely by the overseeing administrator (himself) was a time-tested winner. (This being the process used in the previous search which produced four very disappointing final candidates for general manager. The one who was selected admitted himself that he was a "bad fit" with KAOS and resigned after three months.)

One KAOS staff person suggested at the forum that the views and proposals put forth by the KLDN are not at all representative of the broader KAOS listening community. We would like to test that theory. We encourage KAOS listeners/supporters to engage in discussing these topics. There are a variety of ways to do that. Communicating directly with KAOS is always a good idea, but even more effective when done in a way that provides public record of that communication. We offer a forum for such communications on our web site: www.morelater.com/kaos. This site offers a feature which sends an e-mail directly to Tom Mercado with the option of simultaneously posting your message on the web site.

On this web site, you will also find a copy of the proposal we submitted to Mercado regarding the search for the new general manager and a copy of the transcript we have prepared of the KAOS presentation to the Board of Trustees. In this transcript you will find some discussion of the need for "incremental change" at KAOS and get a sense of the direction that change is intended to take.

Additionally, we hope to see as many interested parties as possible attend upcoming forums addressing the idea of a Listener Advisory Board. Another petition drive is likely. (In September we collected 1100 signatures in three weeks asking that KAOS return and keep *Democracy Now!* on the air.) Watch our web site for details.

In today's political climate and with civil liberties under attack, a resource like a progressive, grassroots community radio station is an increasingly endangered and precious thing. Please join us in our efforts to protect, preserve and at the very least, keep close watch on this immensely important community resource, KAOS Community Radio.

Visit KL*DN!* online at www.morelater.com/kaos

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"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

Situation normal, all f**ked up

WIP columnist takes stock as the world decends into war

Ron Jacobs

I don't know where to begin.

The US is floundering around Central Asia, Africa, the Philippines, and the Middle East trying to justify its war on terror, with plenty of help from world-power-wannabes and paranoid nation-states like India and Israel.

Rumors abound that the Bush Administration actually curtailed FBI investigations into the Afghanistan terror cells last summer in the hope that it could reach a deal with the Taliban government on an oil and natural gas pipeline for its buddies at Unocal.

Meanwhile, the Enron collapse threatens to reach into the innermost depths of the Bush White House, while Pappy Bush gets rich from incredible profits that the Carlyle Investment Group is making on the increase in weapons industry profits since September 11, 2001.

The recent suspension of peace talks in Colombia government had the terrible potential to bring US forces openly into a war in that country that can only truly be resolved when the rich no longer rob the poor. This turn of events seemed closely linked not only to a renewed confidence in the ranks of the Colombian military thanks to the funding provided by Plan Colombia, but also to the new warmongering in Washington, D.C.

As even a casual reader of the news probably knows, both the Colombian military and certain elements in the US national security apparatus have wanted to destroy the revolutionary elements in Colombia for years. These same elements had hoped that this was their time. Up to this point in the civil war, much of the government's dirty work against the popular movements has been undertaken by the various paramilitary organizations. These organizations are comparable to the death squads that ran rampant in El Salvador during the 1980s and the various "counter-terror" teams that killed thousands in South Vietnam during America's war there.

Although they receive surreptitious funding from various US and Colombian government agencies, these groups are not officially part of any government-sponsored military. This arrangement works out nicely for the official militaries in that they keep their hands relatively clean by leaving the massacres of farmers and laborers (as well as their leaders) to the paramilitaries.

In turn, once the massacres are complete in a particular area, the regular military can come in and take that territory, all the while denying any knowledge of the bloodshed that preceded them.

This deniability is possible primarily because the US overseers conspire with the military and the paramilitary groups - a coordination that is not merely due to circumstance, but is part of the government's battle plans. This coordination is further served by the fact that many members of the paramilitaries are members of the regular military as well, much like many Klansmen in the US are also members of the police forces.

It is very likely that the lines between the paramilitaries and the regular military will become blurred even further as the battle between the Colombian government and its opposition intensifies.

As for the rest of the world, it doesn't look much better.

As I write, India and Pakistan continue to dance their dance of death. India has learned this dance from the world's greatest two-steppers: Israel and the US. Like a friend of mine said over the holidays as we watched the news, 'the United States attack on Afghanistan has made it OK for any country that the US supports to forgo long bouts of diplomacy and go straight to war - as long that attacking government says they are fighting terrorism.'

It's even handier if they can throw in a phrase or two that speaks of defending democracy. Indeed, a January 24, 2002 *Washington Post* editorial stated the US should no longer distinguish between its counter-narcotics and counter-insurgency efforts in Colombia, since its war is being waged to protect Colombia's democracy. But this 'democracy' is just as difficult for the poor of Colombia to see as the 'democracy' in Israel is for the Palestinian to see from the Occupied Territories.

Of course, the wars this strategy will cause will bring even greater terror to those populations under attack, as well as the world at large. In addition, the nuclear sword hanging over South Asia (and, by default, the rest of the planet), the possibility of war on any Muslim nation and the tenuous situation in Colombia and Palestine, we are reminded daily of the terror of the perpetual threat of the violence war brings. While this terror is not as damaging physically, the psychological wounds are just as deep.

Try imagining yourself in one of those villages along one of Pakistan's borders. If you live on the border with Afghanistan, you wonder every night as you watch your children fall asleep if US bombers are going to come and drop their death on your home and children.

If you live on that country's border with India, you wonder if this is the night that the sporadic shelling you've heard in the distance almost every day will make your family its next target. If that happens, you wonder, will that be the beginning of the final battle between your country and your neighbor?

No matter which border you live near, you wonder if you should leave everything you've ever built - your fields, your home, your herds, your well - and head to one of the refugee camps farther inland. Or will those camps just be easy targets should the American of Indian militaries run out of other things to attack?

Now try the same scenario in Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Colombia, Palestine, or one of the other potential targets being bandied about by the warmongers in the US.

Even if that bomber or missile never does come, the fear of it coming is enough to make daily life tense and uncertain, to say the least. If it does come, the tragedy of your life is intensified a hundredfold. Indeed, part of the purpose of aerial bombardment is the spreading of terror and fear amongst the civilian population.

I don't care what anyone says, whether it's the President of the United States after a bout with a pretzel, a general with four shiny stars on his shoulders, a senator from Connecticut, or the parent of a dead G.I., this is not the way to achieve a peaceful world.

Unless, of course, the peace the warmongers are attempting to achieve is the peace of the dead.

In today's political climate and with civil liberties under attack, a resource like a progressive, grassroots community radio station is an increasingly endangered and precious thing.

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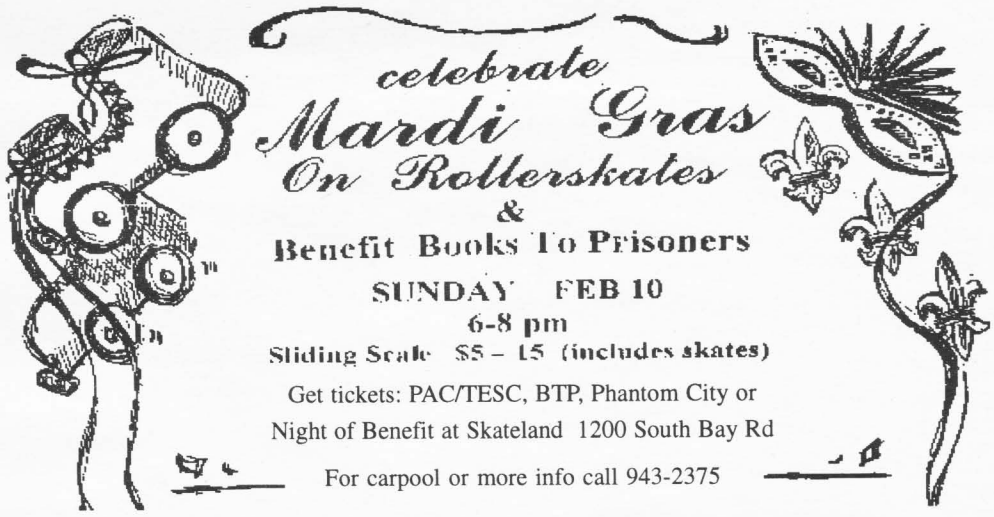
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Until Freedom Is Won!

South Sound activists plan rally and march marking Leonard Peltier's 27th year in prison

Arther J. Miller

February 6, 2002 will mark the twenty-seventh year since Leonard Peltier's arrest. The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee has started a new campaign that includes a number of legal actions by Peltier's legal defense team. Our annual Tacoma March & Rally For Justice, set for February 9, marks the date of Leonard's arrest and will focus on this new campaign.

Peltier, a Lakota/Ojibway and American Indian Movement (AIM) activist, has been imprisoned for the last twenty-seven years.

Peltier was framed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the charge of killing two FBI agents during a firefight between the FBI and AIM on the Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation. The FBI was at Pine Ridge to suppress the traditional Lakota people and their AIM supporters for their opposition to the illegal theft of Lakota land for uranium mining.

In the two years before the firefight over sixty traditional Lakotas and AIM members were murdered by a death squad on Pine Ridge. On the day of the firefight roads in the area of the AIM encampment were blocked, hospitals were warned to expect wounded and an eigth of Pine Ridge was being illegally turned over to the U.S. government. The FBI sent two unmarked cars into the area of the AIM encampment in the same manner as other drive by shootings had taken place at Pine Ridge. A firefight took place and two FBI agents and one AIM member died.

The court would not allow self-defense evidence in Peltier's trial, even though two other AIM members were found not-guilty for reasons of self-defense. In addition, ballistics tests were falsified and witnesses were intimidated in Peltier's trial. Even though the government stated they had no real evidence connecting Peltier to any deaths, the courts would not grant Leonard a new, fair trial.

In 1993 a petition for Executive Clemency was filed. But, because of pressure by the FBI, President Clinton did not approve it. Currently, Peltier's legal team is at work on two lawsuits and one appeal.

The Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group, Native People's Alliance, and The Northwest American Indian Movement are co-sponsoring the Annual International Day In Solidarity With Leonard Peltier March And Rally in Tacoma on Saturday, February 9, 2002. February 6 marks the twenty-seventh year since Peltier's arrest.

LEONARD PELTIER

Our annual event is always held on the Saturday after February 6th so that more people can attend.

We are committed to keeping Peltier's case out in the public. This is an important time in Peltier's case with the two lawsuits and the new appeal being filed. Peltier needs public support if there is any hope for justice . Please, we ask you to join us in Tacoma for our march and rally.

We are also in need of donations for our on going campaign. Please send them to: NWLPSN, c/o SLPSG, P.O. Box 2514, Seattle, WA 98111.

For updates on Leonard's case or to donate to Peltier's legal fund, please go to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee web site at: www.freepeltier.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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MUMIA UPDATE

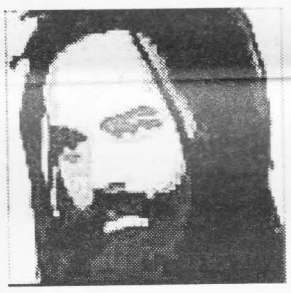
Jeff Mackler

On December 18, 2001 Mumia Abu Jamal's state court conviction upheld. However, on point #25 of Mumia's federal appeal, Judge Yohn ruled that State Court Judge Albert Sabo had improperly instructed the jury regarding the sentencing aspect of their deliber -ation.

Sabo improperly told the jury that if they were to decide to give Mumia a sentence less than the death penalty they had to be unanimous. This was incorrect. They could have voted to give Mumia life without parole by a simple majority.

Yohn vacated the execution order and ordered the state of Pennsylvania to hold a new sentencing hearing with a new jury within 6 months. If the state failed to do so, Yohn ruled that Mumia's sentence would be life without parole.

The state of Pennsylvania immediately appealed Yohn's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals, hoping it will reverse Yohn and enable them to execute Mumia. If the state fails, it is not clear what the state will do.



MUMIA

Pennsylvania officials fear selecting another jury would allow Mumia's side to introduce the Beverly Confession and police corruption as evidence. They fear that a jury aware of the new facts might refuse to even sentence Mumia to life, although the new jury, assuming it ever comes to be, would presumably be instructed that they have but two choices - execution or life in prison.

Maureen Faulkner, the widow of the slain police officer, and her attorney stated they want to settle for life in prison for Mumia if the Court of Appeals fails to reverse Yohn.

This appears to be the position of the corporate media as well. They feel the pressure from world and U.S. public opinion about the death penalty and want to end the fight over Mumia with a life sentence.

Mumia's legal team will seek to overturn the conviction with an appeal of Yohn's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals. But there is a hitch. The Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) allows Mumia to appeal only those points where Yohn has granted a "certificate of appealability." Of the thirty points Yohn ruled on, he agreed, as above with point 25 of Mumia's appeal only. He rejected the other 29 points. But he granted a certificate of appealability to Mumia on point 16. This point deals with with Mumia's assertion that the exclusion of eleven of fourteen Black jurors violated constitutional protections. While Yohn disagrees with Mumia's legal team, he provided the certificate.

Thus, Mumia has no automatic right to appeal on all other issues. The U.S. Court of Appeals now has no obligation to even consider the other issues. This is a direct result of the AEDPA, a reactionary law that severely restricts the constitutional right of habeas corpus, that is, the right to appeal to the federal courts.

However, Mumia's side will ask the Court of Appeals to grant a certificate of appealability for all the issues. The court can decide either way, but they are only obligated to consider point 16.

In summary, everyone understands that Mumia won a critical victory in vacating the execution order. Mumia remains alive - at least for the moment.

The fight is far from over. The experts expect it to continue in court for several years, maybe four or even more.

We have a hard road ahead. Mumia's freedom still rests in our capacity to make the price of his execution too high to pay.

This is a political issue that stands above all the rest. If Yohn wanted to free Mumia, he could have chosen one or more of the myriad of positions put forward on the constitutional issues and on the evidence.

We need to qualitatively broaden the support for Mumia. We need to bring the fight deeper into the schools, unions, churches, and as many other groups as we can find and involve.

Our struggle has kept Mumia alive to this point. They did not want to risk an execution, even in this present difficult political climate.

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BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE! SEE PAGE 2

(Rich / Poor, continued)

concealing their Sprawl policies (which they have yet to reverse). The council could pass ordinances restricting big-box stores and do wonders with Zoning Regulations that would shift commercial focus back downtown. But they don't because it's easier to pick on the vulnerable and shift the blame than to do the right thing.

The problem of a staggering economy is larger than a handful of people in downtown Olympia. Market forces still haven't effectively dealt with poverty or eliminated it (some say they can't) for centuries. Everyone participates in the economy -- it's just a matter of degrees with some contributing and benefitting more than others. Obviously those with high-paying jobs benefit more from the economy and can participate in it more than a single mother who gets $440.00 a month for welfare, a part-time minimum wage worker or someone unemployed. Olympia wants to play favorites and control who is downtown with these ordinances and segregate out those who don't have enough money to spend there.

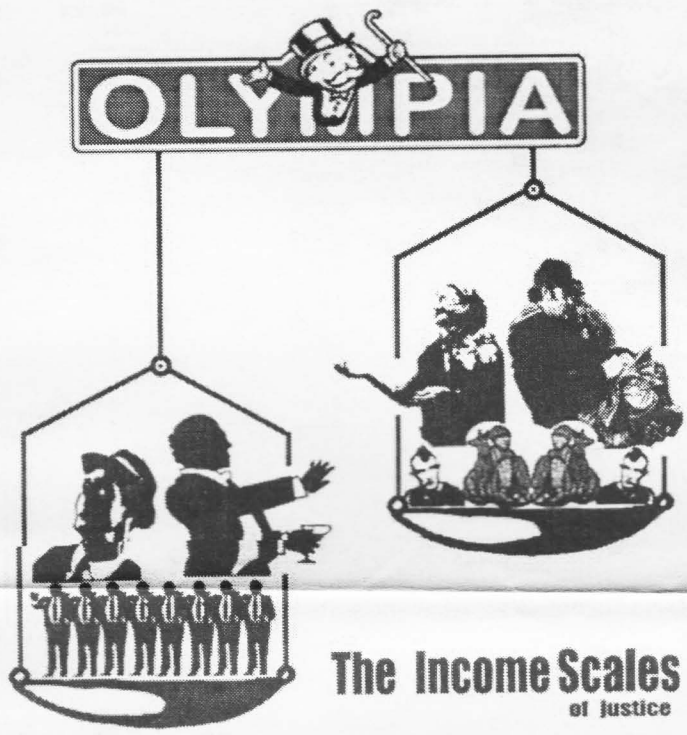
But downtown is not defined solely as a consumer district. Olympia has a thriving cultural base that is localized downtown. Ongoing music and art, a hoping nightlife and bustling daytime as well as packed special events give Olympia its flavor that the economy only profits from. The proposed ordinances not only does nothing to encourage this, but actually threatens its success.

Targeting the Poor for Segregation and Punishment

In the America of the Puritans through the end of the nineteenth century, "sin" was a major crime. Offenses ranged from heresy to open sexuality, from inter-racial associations to gambling, punishable by the stockades and such. But today, as definitions of sin slip, slide and seem increasingly irrelevant, we have pathologized different characteristics, these based on economic and political power. The body may not be flayed in modern-day America, but the punishment still occurs as the threat to economic order has all but replaced moral reason. On display and under attack are the new "criminals" including youth, single mothers, people of color, prisoners, the disabled and the overarching poor. In the past decade, cities have increasingly moved toward enacting and enforcing laws that specifically criminalize poverty and homelessness in response to their concern about the use of public space and the faltering economy. Cities enact and enforce these criminal laws as "quick-fix" solutions to remove poor people from sight, rather than addressing the underlying causes of poverty and homelessness. And on it goes to present day Olympia.

Discriminatory intent can easily be cloaked in apparently neutral rules. Legislation which unjustifiably draws discriminatory distinctions, or which has the effect of creating discriminatory distinctions between a disadvantaged group and more advantaged members of society and which perpetuates the disadvantage of the group runs counter to the idea of civil rights and popular opinion. It does not matter whether Olympia's laws explicitly mentions homeless people or poor people, if the effect is discriminatory, then the law is nothing more than legally sanctioned bigotry and public segregation.

American history is full of laws that created a double standard between 'the advantaged' and women, natives, immigrants, Gays & Lesbians -- and who can forget the Jim Crow laws? Laws were enacted and targeted at people based on the color of their skin to keep them from certain public activities or from interfering with the 'advantaged' consumer. Other laws like anti-sodomy have criminalized homosexual behavior. Furthermore, groups have been 'empowered' by such laws to lynch blacks, rape women and bash Gays & Lesbians with impunity. In city after city with anti-homeless legislation, homeless people are made sport of and are attacked, set afire and murdered. Is this what we want for Olympia too? As most Olympians and Americans are embarrassed and ashamed by such past laws and their more formal institutions of prison and slavery with which our ancestors and national history has left us; so too will our children be embarrassed and ashamed of our city's and country's present-day segregation laws along the continuum of discrimination and targeted injustice.



The Income Scales of Justice

Imagine (if not by anti-discrimination action in the 70s) women could still not qualify for credit without their father or husband's permission, would Olympia consider an "Aggressive Feminism" ordinance that would criminalize women for questioning males in downtown Olympia since that would threaten the consumer base and economic order? In the context of the proposed ordinances that is not so ridiculous. Neither is an ordinance restricting the 'anti-social behavior' of the informed consumer who questions the quality of their purchase or demands respectful treatment of the business owner.

Criminal Injustice System

It is clear both from our government's commentary about the proposed Olympia ordinances and from the ordinances themselves, that the intent and effect is to establish the basis for a police attack on a vulnerable and disadvantaged group on behalf of the more 'advantaged' in Olympia. Such criminalization of poverty and of homeless people is poor public policy because it imposes unnecessary burdens on the criminal justice system. Relying on law enforcement officials and jails to address poverty and related issues, such as unemployment, illiteracy, mental illness, and substance abuse, that are more appropriately handled by service providers, causes problems and widespread frustrations within the criminal justice system. Jails are already overcrowded without detaining individuals who have not committed serious (or even real) crimes.

Criminalization neither provides long-term benefits for poor or homeless individuals (and may interfere with their ability to find subsequent employment) nor does it provide a lasting solution to the conflicts over public space and the economic order. Moreover, it is likely to cost significantly more money. The costs of police time and resources and jailing individuals is substantially higher than the cost of providing them with shelter combined with necessary services. It is not only less expensive to provide supportive housing to poor people than to incarcerate them, but the services associated with supportive housing can potentially move people out of poverty (just as surely as a living-wage job can do).

Adoption of laws and policies that punish poor people rather than addressing the problems that cause them is an ineffective (and bigoted) approach. Penalizing people for engaging in innocent or public behavior will not reduce the occurrence of these activities or keep the poor out of public spaces when they have no alternative place to go or no other means of subsistence. With insufficient resources for shelter and services, imposing punishment for unavoidable activities is not only futile, it is inhumane. Policymakers must recognize the distinction between intolerance of poor people and the intolerance of the manifestations of the problem of poverty. Ultimately, the cycle of poverty will only be broken when policies address the causes and effectively move people into housing or guarantee them a living wage job. Olympia should reject such ordinances and focus its attention on alleviating poverty and eliminating homelessness, rather than criminalizing it.

Myths and Facts on Homelessness and Poverty

It is a tragic aspect of our culture that homeless people, in addition to suffering from the hardship of their condition, are subjected to alienation and discrimination by mainstream society. It is even more tragic that alienation and discrimination often spring from incorrect myths and stereotypes which surround homelessness. The following examines some of the myths and the realities about homelessness.

----Arrest Records----

Myth: Homeless people commit more violent crimes than housed people.

Fact: Homeless people actually commit less violent crimes than housed people.

Dr. Pamela Fischer, of Johns Hopkins University found that although homeless people were more likely to commit non-violent and non-destructive crimes, they were actually less likely to commit crimes against person or property.

--- The Magnet Theory ---

Myth: Setting up services for homeless people will cause homeless people from all around migrate to a city.

Fact: Studies have shown that homeless people do not migrate for services. To the extent they do move to new areas, it is because they are searching for work, have family in the area, or other reasons not related to services.

A recent study found that 75% of homeless people are still living in the city in which they became homeless.

--- Length of Homelessness ---

Myth: Homeless people are a fixed population who are usually homeless for long periods of time.

Fact: The homeless population is quite diverse in terms of their length of homelessness and the number of times they cycle in and out of homelessness.

Research on the length of homelessness states that 40% of homeless people have been homeless less than six months, and that 70% of homeless people have been homeless less than two years.

--- Population Demographics ---

Myth: Homeless people are mostly single men.

Fact: Families constitute a large and growing percentage of the homeless population.

The homeless population is diverse:

25-40% work. 37% are families w/children
25% are children. 30% are veterans.
25-30% are mentally disabled.
40% are drug or alcohol dependent.

--- Employment ---

Myth: Homeless people don't work and get most of their money from public assistance programs.

Fact: Homeless people do work, and a relatively small percentage of them receive government assistance.

A nationwide study by the Urban Institute in 1987 found that only 20% of 1,704 homeless people received AFDC, GA, or SSI.

--- Substance Abuse and --- Mental Illness

Myth: All homeless people are mentally ill or substance abusers.

Fact: Around a quarter of homeless people are mentally ill, and about 40% are alcohol or substance abusers, with around 15% suffering both disabilities.

Koegel has researched the prevalence of mental illness among the homeless population and found "between 20% and 25% of those homeless people studied have at some time experienced severe and often extremely disabling mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and the major affective disorders (clinical depression or bipolar disorder)."

James Wright, of Tulane University, has studied the prevalence of alcohol and other drug abuse among the homeless population. He finds that 38% of homeless people are alcohol abusers, as opposed to 10% of the general population. He furthermore finds that 13% of homeless people are drug abusers.

The Center for Mental Health Services states that betweeen10 and 20% of homeless people suffer "co-occurring severe mental and substance use disorders."

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&
Mumia Update

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LINT TRAP

Why They Hate Us (exhibit 27c)

GLOBAL SWEATSHOPS UNLIMITED JAKARTA
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WORKS IN PROGRESS

FEBRUARY 2002 FREE

Does KAOS management HEAR the voice of the community?

Double Feature: pages 1 & 8

Does the city council not SEE the poverty in Olympia?

page 1

Let America's Political Prisoners SPEAK

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- *Up Front*
- Lessons from Enron
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